



Andy Hall
Chief of Police

NEIGHBORHOOD

WATCH



NEWSLETTER

JULY / AUGUST 2004

POLICE BUSINESS 898-3315

GRAFFITI REMOVAL 895-2876

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EXT. 590

CODE ENFORCEMENT 898-3311

CRIME WARNING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES GYPSY DISTRACTION

There have been numerous gypsy distraction burglaries in the local area since April 2004. Distraction burglaries occur when suspects distract a victim from his or her homes in order to have another person enter the residence and steal property. Suspects target homes of elderly female victims, stating that they have lost a child's ball or kitten in the backyard. Suspects ask for assistance in finding the lost item. As the victim looks for the item, one of the suspects or an unseen accomplice enters the residence and takes the victim's purse and or jewelry.

The suspects have been described as Male Whites or Hispanics with Female White or Hispanic companions. The suspects have at times had children present, including a female infant in the arms of the female and a male 10 year old boy, described as chubby.

BEACH AWARENESS

During the warmer months, many people go to the beach. What should be an enjoyable time often turns into tragedy when many of these people become victims of crime. The real tragedy is that following a few simple tips could have prevented many of these crimes.

Park your car in the beach parking lot, or as near to it as possible, if it is full. Parking on a side street away from the beach to save money could cost you much more in the long run. Thieves look around these streets watching for people to leave their cars and head for the beach. Thieves know that you aren't likely to come back to your car for hours, so they have plenty of time to break in and take what they want. Also, make sure to note where you parked your car.

Attach car keys to a large key chain or some other large item. This will make keys easier to find and there will be less chance of losing them in the sand.

Don't wear jewelry to the beach; it is very easy to lose. Once something like jewelry is lost in the sand it is very difficult to find.

When taking your necessary items to the beach, carry them in some type of beach bag. A bag that can be zipped shut is preferable, but if you have one that cannot be closed like that, be sure to keep the valuables inside (such as money, keys, etc.) covered. For example, clothing or a towel can be used to prevent a thief from having an easy view of what is inside the bag.

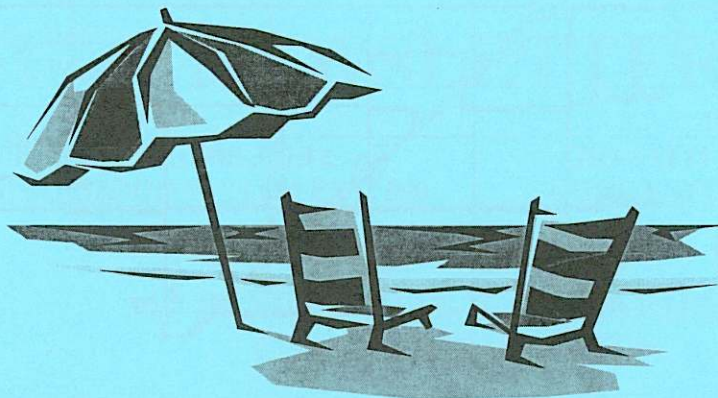
Keep your items somewhere that is close and within your view. For example, place items at your side rather than behind your back or beach chair. Be alert for people who look suspicious or out of place, and who appear to be overly concerned with other person's actions and/or property.

Since it is very easy for people, especially children, to get lost on the beach, remember to check the number of the nearest lifeguard tower. This is a good reference point to help you remember where you are located on the beach.

When children go to public restrooms, an adult should escort them.

Don't take your dog to the beach. Your dog may be playful to you, but he can be an annoyance to others. Most beaches do not allow dogs.

Finally, be sure to report all crimes. Whether you live locally or far away this is important so that the concerned police department can take steps to combat the problem.



CITIZEN ACADEMY

The next Citizen Academy will be starting in the fall of this year. The Academy is free and meets one night a week for eleven weeks. The weekly meetings include informational lectures, demonstrations, discussion groups and hands-on activities from actual police training.

Weekly topics include: Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Gangs, Investigative Procedures, Internal Affairs, Laws of Arrest, Narcotics, Traffic, Officer Safety, Forensic Service.

If you would be interested in attending the Citizen Academy please contact Police Service Officer Ken Edwards at 898-3315 Ext. 590.

